RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Department of Natural Resources
Room 1010
February 10, 2004

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
KEENE, Michael – Technology & Science
CANNING, Michael – Division of Wildlife Resources
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks & Recreation
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
BIRKES, William – DEQ/Division of Drinking Water
BAKER, Walt - DEQ/Division of Water Quality

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – GOPB/Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
RIGTRIP, Keith – Bureau of Land Management
HARJA, John – Department of Natural Resources
FICK, Brian – University of Chicago
SHEA, Pat – University of Utah
PUGMIRE, Ron – University of Utah
ZELLER, Deane – University of Utah (Consultant)

I. Approval of Minutes

Kimm Harty called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Michael Keene made a motion to approve the December 9, 2003 minutes with corrections listed below. Karl Kappe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Corrections included:
Second Page:
2nd Paragraph - Adding units after 16,000 (feet)
Last Paragraph – Insert "Ute" prior to "tribe" and "tribal lands"
Insert "Jean" or "Ms."
Third Page:
7th Paragraph –Change "state lands" to "trust lands"
Last Paragraph – Change "Department of Environmental Quality" to "Environmental Protection Agency"
Insert "and changed the anti-degradation rule"
Page 4:
1st Paragraph – Change "division director" to "department director"
Change "resended" to "rescinded"

II. Special Presentations/Discussion

AUGET COSMIC RAY PROJECT IN MILLARD COUNTY - Ron Pugmire, University of Utah; Pat Shea, Ballard Sphar et al; Deane Zeller, University of Utah and Brian Fick, University of Chicago

Michael Keene, State Science Advisor, introduced the guest speakers. Ron Pugmire stated that these are exciting events and opportunities for Utah.

Pat Shea, Ballard Sphar et al, stated that the Japanese funded the Telescope Array Project near Delta, Utah, in Millard County, which is a $12 million project. Construction will begin in March 2004 after trust land leases are completed on three tracts which are for the placement of telescopes and 576 ground detectors.

The Auget Project will mirror a similar project in southern Argentina, which is the corresponding site in the southern hemisphere. There is synergism in locating these projects in close proximity to each other. Cosmic rays regularly hit the earth, and are deflected by our atmosphere. In 1980, Professor Cronin theorized that some powerful cosmic rays (1,000 times the energy) hit the upper atmosphere with such force that fragments will hit the surface, creating a cascading effect. These energetic cosmic rays may be found just once every 100 years for a square mile of surface. The intent of the project is to spread out instrumentation to collect and analyze data to determine the direction and concentration of such cosmic rays and to analyze this information. Knowledge about these cosmic particles does not exist in physics. Over the last 40 years, however, Physicists have found that cosmic rays are indeed fractured, and physical and mathematical analyses can be conducted.

The telescope array will collect information on primary particles and fragmented secondary particles using ground level detectors/collectors. The project is located south and west of Delta, Utah.

Flourescent telescopes will be located at Little Drum Mountain, along Highway 157 near Black Rock Mesa, and in the Sevier Desert at Long Ridge. The telescope array will not cause any permanent scarring of the land, and after it has been used the area would still be considered untouched according to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Students from Fillmore and Delta, Utah will participate in a contest to help design the platform stands that the telescope array will be placed on, and in monitoring the site via non-motorized methods such as hiking and horseback. This project will advance scientific literacy in the state, and benefit both the University of Utah and Brigham Young University physics programs.

The Auget Project will have 1,600 ground sites for water tanks that will be spaced approximately 1.2 to 1.5 kilometers apart. Each water tank will be accurately placed and leveled, filled with purified water and equipped with wireless solar panels. Each water tank is sealed and dark, in order to detect the quantity of light and its direction. The sealed dark photo-multiplier tubes sense flashes of light and produce electromagnetic “sonic booms.” This may provide information to determine direction and other information about primary and secondary particles. Each tank is three feet tall, has a ten-foot radius, weighs ten tons and holds 3,000 gallons of water. These tanks are cattle proof. Some of the equipment will be positioned with helicopters; this will not require the construction of new roads. These tanks will detect and collect information about the direction and concentration of cosmic rays.

The telescopes work only at night, and observe the nitrogen fluorescence (ultraviolet light) as charged particles pass through the atmosphere, stimulating the nitrogen particles which produce a kind of jet trail.

The project area is approximately the size of Rhode Island. Twenty-eight percent of the project is located on private lands; much of this is on the irrigated land in the Pahvant Valley. There is some potential for flooding in the areas near Clear Lake and Blue Lake. Some ground settling may occur in this area. The longevity of the project is anticipated to be from five to ten years. This project will

significantly expand the work of science and have a positive economic impact, without significantly impacting the environment. Mitigation may include a biota inventory of the high desert plateau.

Proponents of this project are working with Millard County Commissioners and will host local public meetings. The project will involve the local citizens and schools in information and education efforts. The Argentina site also has incorporated students in the project. Argentina and Utah schools in the project area may exchange students and project information. Teachers and students may be involved in monitoring and other activities to build pride and respect for these efforts.

Currently, Utah has some competition with Colorado for the Auget Project. The Colorado project area has more private lands. The decision will be made in November 2004.

The timeline of this project depends on planning requirements for an environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Please contact Michael Keene, Technology and Science, if you have any input on this project.

III. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (DFFSL), reported that DFFSL is working on a programmatic agreement that addresses hazardous fuel load reduction activities in the context of impacts on cultural resources.

Eric Millis, Division of Water Resources, announced the construction of the new dam at Wide Hollow Reservoir near Escalante, Utah. The construction is anticipated to begin in March of 2005 (see project number #3674). This project is a dam safety issue and the division is submitting the project early to get federal funds committed for this project.

Michael Canning, Division of Wildlife Resources, mentioned that two potential spotted frog easements in the Sanpete County area are in progress.

Keith Rigtrup, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), stated that the Vernal Resource Management Plan Draft will be delivered to the printer and it should be available March 26, 2004. The Price Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be finalized in early April with alternatives and impact analysis.

Matthew Higdon, BLM, announced that by the end of the fiscal year (September) BLM is directed to revise fire management plans in the state to incorporate new information and better data in addition to the national interagency template. In addition, BLM is responding to October 2003 planning manual guidance this will require amending 20 land use plans into a single National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. There are BLM management areas that have a fire management plan that will require separate NEPA processes. BLM will provide a presentation at an upcoming meeting.

The Cedar City Field Office is working on amendments to four older planning documents. It is working with Iron County to create a Shooting Range Management Area and there is a possibility for a land exchange. The notice will be announced in the Federal Register.

Walt Baker, Division of Water Quality, stated that the division is revising Section 305e of the Clean

Water Act to identify the quality of waters in the state. These findings will be reported to congress. The list of impaired waters for a beneficial use (agriculture, drinking water, irrigation, fishery/wildlife) is used to develop strategies to bring the waters back to meeting the standard for beneficial use. This process is required every two years. The Total Daily Maximum Load is identified to determine what is necessary to restore impaired waters to their beneficial use. This process will include public hearings. Walt Baker provided an update on the Kennecott Utah Copper cleanup of the shallow groundwater aquifer.

Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District has pulled their request for a discharge permit to discharge selenium-laden water removed from the contaminated groundwater aquifer and is now considering other means to treat the contaminated groundwater.

IV. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

Please review the following priority status items. Project number #3682 Department of Energy/Bureau of Land Management Grand Staircase State Trust Land Access Environmental Assessment and #3677 Skull Valley Indian Reservation on the Project Management Library.

John Harja stated that the governor and the legislature would need to concur with federal agency Wild and Scenic River recommendation. The state's position is that only perennial streams meet the Wild and Scenic River designation criteria not ephemeral streams. Water in the stream channel is a fundamental requirement House Bill 88 lays out the requirements in some detail. The Wild and Scenic River designation could impact uses upstream and downstream, criteria for water quality, access to water rights and other issues. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Wild and Scenic River designation will both require concurrence of the governor and legislature.

Wes Curtis, State Planning Coordinator, received a letter from Dave Hunsaker, manager of the Grand Staircase Monument, regarding the grazing EIS The state has agreed to be cooperating agency in this planning process. The alternatives are being generated, and Val Payne will be meeting with this group in Kanab next week.

John Harja stated that the Resource Development Coordinating Committee may be subject to meeting tighter deadlines to be able to consider comments from the counties and to provide an opportunity for the counties to review future comment letters. A website will be created to allow viewing comment letters electronically. This will require additional coordination within state agencies prior to placing this information on the website.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1010.